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Message Text

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64
ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 INR-09 IO-12 JUSE-00 NSAE-00

RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-07 TRSE-00 USIA-12 NSC-10 SCI-06

OMB-01 BNDE-00 AID-20 L-03 INRE-00 RSR-01 /099 R

DRAFTED BY EA/ RA: RWMOORE/ HISOM
3/ L6/73, EXT. 21200
APPROVED BY EA/ RA: RWMOORE
EA/ TB: GMARTIN
AID: DPFEIFFER (DRAFT)
AID/ OPS: SGUTH (DRAFT)
AID/ CO/ SA: OWILLIAMS (DRAFT)
AID/ A: MWAMPLER (DRAFT)
BNDD/ IA: SMCCLINTIC (PHONE)
S/ NM: MLAWRENCE (DRAFT)
TREASURY: DGORDON (PHONE)
---------- 076007
P 162021 Z MAR 73
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

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E. O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: SNAR TH
SUBJECT: NARCOTICS - AIRCRAFT FOR SNO
REF: BANGKOK 3144

1. EA INTER- AGENCY WORKING GROUP ON NARCOTICS CONTROL HAS REVIEWED THE REVISED DRAFT PROAG FOR THE PROVISION TO RTG OF TWO UTILITY TYPE HELICOPTERS FOR SNO, AND QUESTIONS WISDOM OF PURSUING PROJECT. REASONING AS FOLLOWS:

2. INITIAL PURPOSE OF PROJECT WAS TO MAKE SNO MORE AGGRESSIVE IN ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES BY PLACING AIR-CRAFT AT ITS IMMEDIATE DISPOSAL. IT WAS NOT ARGUED
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THAT TNPD IN GENERAL NEEDED ADDITIONAL AIRCRAFT. NOW THAT TNPD HAS MADE FORCEFUL, PERSUASIVE ARGUMENT AGAINST PLACING HELICOPTERS AT SNO' S EXCLUSIVE DISPOSAL ON GROUND THAT SNO SHOULD BE TREATED AS INTEGRAL ELEMENT OF TNPD, QUESTION IS WHETHER ALTERNATIVE PLAN SUGGESTED REFTEL ACCOMPLISHES ORIGINAL PURPOSE OF ENLIVENING SNO' S ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES. CONSIDERING HIGH COST OF HELICOPTERS, WORKING GROUP DOES NOT PERCEIVE COMPELLING CASE IN SUPPORT OF PROPOSED UTILIZATION PLAN. COULD NOT TNPD CARRY OUT SAME UTILIZATION PLAN WITHOUT THE TWO ADDITIONAL HELICOPTERS? UTILIZATION PLAN PROPOSED HAS APPARENT VIRTUE OF PROVIDING US WITH LEVERAGE TO EXACT COMPLIANCE FROM

TNPD, BUT ONCE HELICOPTERS ARE ORDERED AND IN PIPELINE WE WOULD HAVE LITTLE CHOICE BUT TO FOLLOW THROUGH WITH DELIVERY WHETHER TNPD WAS COMPLYING WITH TERMS OF PLAN OR NOT.

3. WORKING GROUP WOULD THEREFORE PREFER THAT OFFER OF ADDITIONAL HELICOPTERS BE WITHDRAWN (OR SIMPLY ALLOWED TO LANGUISH). IT SEEMS TO WORKING GROUP THAT USG HAS REASONABLE GROUNDS FOR WITHDRAWING OFFER. ORIGINAL OFFER SPECIFIED AIRCRAFT FOR SNO IN ORDER FREE SNO FROM DEPENDENCE ON TNPD RESOURCES. SINCE RTG INSISTS THAT SNO REQUIREMENTS MUST BE SERVICED BY PAD ON POOL BASIS, LOGICAL COURSE OF ACTION NOW IS TO TRY TO ENSURE EFFECTIVE UTILIZATION OF PAD FLEET WHICH APPEARS LARGE ENOUGH, IF EFFICIENTLY EMPLOYED, TO PROVIDE IMPROVED SNO CAPABILITY WHILE ALSO MEETING OTHER TNPD REQUIRE-MENTS. WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY COMMENT. ROGERS

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